Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

during initiation of a real-time media session between a plurality of user stations via a communication server, the communication server ~~instructing~~ directing at least one of the user stations to operate in a mode selected from the group consisting of half-duplex mode and full-duplex mode.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the communication server selecting the mode.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein each user station is (i) a half-duplex capable station or (ii) a half-duplex and full-duplex capable station, and wherein selecting the mode comprises:

the communication server learning that at least one of the user stations is half-duplex capable and responsively selecting half-duplex as the mode.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each user station is (i) a half-duplex capable station or (ii) a half-duplex and full-duplex capable station, and wherein the method further comprises:

during the real-time media session, the communication server detecting that a half-duplex capable station joins the session and responsively ~~instructing~~ directing each other participating station to operate in the half-duplex mode.

2

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~instructing~~ directing the at least one user station to operate in the mode comprises:

sending an instruction to the at least one user station, the instruction ~~indicating~~ directing the at least one user station to operate in the mode.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein sending the instruction comprises sending the instruction within session setup signaling.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 5, further comprising:

a given one of the user stations receiving the instruction and responsively operating in the mode during the real-time media session.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein operating in the mode during the real-time media session comprises:

receiving an incoming media stream from the communication server while sending an outgoing media stream to the communication server during the real-time media session;

treating the incoming media stream as a floor denial if the mode is half-duplex; and

playing out the incoming media stream if the mode is full-duplex.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8, wherein treating the incoming media stream as a floor denial comprises:

presenting a floor denial alert to a user in response to receipt of the incoming media stream.

3

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the alert comprises at least one of an audible alert, a visual alert and a vibratory alert.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein operating in the mode during the real-time media session comprises:

if the mode is half-duplex, then applying implicit floor control; and

if the mode is full-duplex, then not applying implicit floor control.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the communication server operating in the mode during the session.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein operating in the mode comprises:

if the mode is half-duplex, then applying implicit floor control; and

if the mode is full-duplex, then not applying implicit floor control.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

during initiation of the real-time media session, the communication server receiving from a user station a request to operate in the mode; and

the server responsively performing the ~~instructing~~ directing.

15. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

4

a user station receiving from a communication server an instruction ~~indicating whether~~ directing the user station ~~should~~ to operate in a mode selected from the group consisting of a half-duplex mode [[or]] and a full-duplex mode;

the user station engaging in a real-time media session with one or more other user stations via the communication server, and, in response to the instruction, the user-station operating in the mode during the real-time media session.

16.   (Original)   The method of claim 15, wherein operating in the mode during the real-time media session comprises:

receiving an incoming media stream from the communication server while sending an outgoing media stream to the communication server during the real-time media session;

treating the incoming media stream as a floor denial if the mode is half-duplex; and

playing out the incoming media stream if the mode is full-duplex.

17.   (Original)   The method of claim 16, wherein treating the incoming media stream as a floor denial comprises:

presenting a floor denial alert to a user in response to receipt of the incoming media stream.

18.   (Original)   The method of claim 17, wherein the alert comprises at least one of an audible alert, a visual alert and a vibratory alert.

19.   (Original)   The method of claim 15, wherein operating in the mode during the real-time media session comprises:

if the mode is half-duplex, then applying implicit floor control; and

if the mode is full-duplex, then not applying implicit floor control.

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Currently amended)   A user station comprising:

a processor;

a communication interface;

data storage;

program instructions stored in the data storage and executable by the processor (i) to engage in a packet-based real-time media session with one or more other user stations via a communication server, (ii) to receive from the communication sever an instruction directing the user station to operate in a mode selected from the group consisting of half-duplex and full-duplex, and (iii) to operate in the mode during the packet-based real-time media session.

22.   (Currently amended) The user station of claim 21, wherein the program instructions cause the processor to operate in the mode by causing the processor to perform method steps comprising:

receiving an incoming media stream from the communication server while sending an outgoing media stream to the communication server during the real-time media session;

treating the incoming media stream as a floor denial if the mode is half-duplex; and

6

playing out the incoming media stream if the mode is full-duplex.

23.   (Currently amended) The user station of claim 21, wherein:

when the mode is half-duplex, the <u>program</u> instructions cause the processor to apply

implicit floor control; and

when the mode is full-duplex, the <u>program</u> instructions do not cause the processor to

apply implicit floor control.